



**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

**OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES**

**News Release**

**LINDA LINGLE**  
GOVERNOR

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**OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES HIRES NEW PROJECT DIRECTOR TO  
HELP WITH YOUTH CORRECTIONAL FACILITY**

HONOLULU — The Office of Youth Services (OYS) has hired Etene Taimalelagi as the new project director to assist in reform efforts at the Hawai'i Youth Correctional Facility (HYCF).

Mr. Taimalelagi, a former educator, counselor and youth probation officer, will work with OYS Executive Director Sharon Agnew and HYCF Administrator Kaleve Tufono-Iosefa to develop policies and procedures to better manage and serve youth at the facility and improve staff training. Agnew noted that many of HYCF's policies and procedures were developed in the early 1980s and have not been updated to adapt to current conditions.

"We're very encouraged to find someone with Etene's background in juvenile corrections," Agnew said. "This is a unique field and we are fortunate to capture his interest in taking on such an intense project that will help improve the overall operations and programs of HYCF."

Taimalelagi, who started late last month, is also developing improved policies and procedures based on American Corrections Association (ACA) standards for juvenile facilities.

"I have dedicated my life to serving young adults and to assist them in realizing their potential and dreams," Taimalelagi said. "I am thrilled to be part of the youth services team and at the prospect of making positive changes on how we care for the wards at the HYCF."

Agnew said the OYS and the HYCF continue to receive overwhelming support from the Lingle-Aiona Administration and the Attorney General's Office, with assistance from the Department of Human Services and Family Court judges.

"We're moving forward at a consistent pace," Agnew said. "It takes daily effort to achieve the change so important to Hawai'i's children."

**For more information, contact:**

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